



26 June 2008

During the measles outbreak in Arizona, the Arizona Department of Health Services recommended children 6-11 months of age in Pima County receive a dose of MMR vaccine for protection against measles. A dose of MMR given at 6-11 months, however, will not count toward the 2 dose recommendation after 12 months of age. The one exception is, a dose of MMR given 4 days or less before a child's first birthday should be considered a valid dose.

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is now modifying measles vaccine recommendations in Pima County due to declining numbers of measles cases. **ADHS no longer recommends giving measles vaccination to infants under one year of age.** Children one year of age and older should continue to be vaccinated according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.

The ACIP recommends all children receive 2 doses of MMR after one year of age. MMR #1 should be given at 12 -15 months of age. MMR #2 is recommended at 4-6 years of age, but may be administered as soon as 4 weeks following MMR#1. Two MMR doses, given after one year of age, are required for kindergarten entry. Children who received a dose of MMR at 6-11 months of age will have a total of 3 doses (1 non-dose, MMR #1, MMR #2) when they enter school.

The last reported case of measles in an Arizona resident occurred on June 5, 2007 and no secondary spread has been identified from recent measles cases. Measles transmission will be considered "interrupted" 42 days after the last case, as long as no additional cases have been identified.

ADHS reminds providers to continue considering measles diagnosis in patients with a fever and rash until the outbreak is declared over. Suspected cases should be reported to your local health department. If you have any questions, please contact the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program at (602) 364-3676.